

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, JOBS AND GROWTH TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule XXII, clause 7(c) I announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I move that the managers on the part of the House in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 be instructed as follows:

1. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment not included in the House amendment that provides immediate payments to taxpayers receiving an additional credit by reason of the bill in the same manner as other taxpayers were entitled to immediate payments under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment not included in the House amendment that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of the conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefits for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

The House conferees shall, as soon as practical after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than Friday, July 18, 2003.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BENNY CARTER

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing of the legendary musician, Benny Carter, this past Saturday at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 95.

Benny Carter's life and career literally spanned the 20th century. His music encompassed the history of jazz and much more. Ranked with the likes of Johnny Hodges and Charlie Parker, Benny Carter is considered one of the greatest alto saxophonists of all times. Ella Fitzgerald described him as "everything a musician would want to be"; while Miles Davis said, "Everybody ought to listen to Benny. He is a

whole musical education." And the great Ben Webster said about Carter, "He is the only person that I get the shakes trying to play my horn behind or with him."

Born in New York in 1907, Carter received his first music lessons from his mother, but was largely a self-taught musician. In the late 1920s he joined Fletcher Henderson's seminal orchestra and in 1931 became musical director for McKinney's Cotton Pickers.

Returning to New York in 1938, Carter formed his own top-flight orchestra and spent much of 1939 and 1940 at Harlem's famed Savoy Ballroom. His arrangements were much in demand and featured on recordings by Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glen Miller, Gene Krupa, and Tommy Dorsey.

We will miss this outstanding and this exemplary musician. May he rest in peace.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES INFLUENCING RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for 21 years I have been in the Congress, and for 21 years I have supported the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the people who were fighting for the lives of the unborn, the pro-life organizations. And for 21 years I received accolades from religious organizations all over this country. In fact, the Traditional Values Coalition last year asked me to be a member of their board of directors.

Well, I do not know if my colleagues can see this on television or not, but this was mailed out into my district this past week. It is a picture of a little baby sucking on a pacifier or something, and underneath it is a mother with a package of pills that are supposed to be the RU-486, the abortion pill that would cause an abortion 24 hours after conception, or after conception sometime. It says on the front of it next to this little baby, "Will Congressman DAN BURTON miss an opportunity to protect the sanctity of human life?"

I do not understand that, how a religious organization can be manipulated by the pharmaceutical industry to do this sort of thing. They are supposed to be moral people; and yet I am confident, in fact I am dead sure, that the Traditional Values Coalition did not have the money to mail this kind of

trash out to congressional districts all across this country and also do television ads and radio ads going after Congressmen because they believe that seniors ought to be able to get re-imported drugs from Canada or Germany or some place else that cost one-sixth or one-tenth of what they cost in the United States.

And the reason the pharmaceutical industry is dead on the reimportation is because they are loading all of their profits on the backs of the American people while they are giving these pharmaceuticals for a much lower price in other parts of the country. Why should Americans pay six times as much money for Tamoxifen as they do in Germany? That is a cancer-fighting drug that women use to save their lives. In Canada and in Germany it costs \$60 for a 30- or 60-day supply. In the United States it costs \$360. Why should Americans pay that much more than other countries?

It is because the pharmaceutical companies are making so much money; and because they are afraid they are going to pass a reimportation bill, they are going after the people in the Congress who believe that people ought to pay the same prices here as they do other places.

How are they going after us? They are going after us with a meat cleaver, and they are trying to do it under a facade, under a tent so that they do not look like they are the bad guys. I am telling you, the Traditional Values Coalition and the other religious organizations that are putting out this kind of garbage, when they know it is not true, are being funded by the pharmaceutical industries. Now, they might say, oh, no, we are not.

Well, I tell you, tonight on the floor of the U.S. House, I am challenging every one of the religious organizations in this country who have endorsed me year after year after year for reelection, I am challenging them tonight to let us see their financial records because I want to see what the pharmaceutical companies are giving them in order for them to put this kind of stuff out. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the leading advocate for pro-life in this Congress, is a co-sponsor with me and others for the reimportation of pharmaceuticals to make sure Americans pay a fair price for pharmaceuticals. But the pharmaceutical companies are scared to death of that, and so what they are doing is loading up all of these organizations to come after us and to make us look like we are people that we are not.

So I say once again, Traditional Values Coalition who wanted me to be on your board last year because I am such a great guy, I want to see your financial records. Please show me your financial records and let me know that the pharmaceutical companies are not paying for this trash because I believe they are. And I say the same thing to all the other organizations. Jerry Falwell put an editorial in the paper

not long ago about this very same issue, and I think it is a bogus issue, Mr. Falwell; and I would like to see your financial records and Mr. Robertson's and all other religious organizations' financial records who are criticizing us for wanting to reimport pharmaceuticals so Americans pay a fair price.

So please, all of you religious organizations who are concerned about this, as you say you are, let us see your financial records and let us know that you are not taking large amounts of money from the pharmaceutical companies to put out this kind of tripe.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Member to address his remarks to the Chair.

AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the decision to go to war is the most profound decision that any nation can make. It should be done, of course, judiciously and only with the utmost of care and only as a last resort. This is especially true of democratic republics such as ours, when the actions of the government must be with the consent of the governed.

In order for the governed to give their consent, that consent, of course, must be informed. And it is the responsibility of the government to inform its citizens in an honest and straightforward way with regard to the background and information that it has that causes it to make such profound decisions.

On January 23 of this year, the President of the United States in this room addressed the Joint Session of the Congress as well as the people of the United States. And in that address he made a number of assertions with regard to the state of Iraq and why it was important for us to engage that country in hostility. Among those statements he made was one with regard to the importation of processed uranium from Niger. The President said in his statement that the British Government had informed them that the Government of Niger was importing processed uranium, and that was in the context of Iraq's trying to develop a nuclear weapon.

Now, we know that the President had that information on a first-hand basis. He did not have to quote any information from the British Government. He had it on a first-hand basis because the Vice President of the United States back in March of last year went to the Central Intelligence Agency and asked them to conduct an investigation as to whether or not Iraq was importing processed uranium from Africa.

The Central Intelligence Agency then asked former Ambassador Wilson, who

had a long and distinguished career in the Foreign Service including positions in West Africa, asked Mr. Wilson if he would go to Niger to discover whether or not it was possible for Niger to export processed uranium to Iraq for the purpose of building a nuclear weapon.

Ambassador Wilson went there. He spent a considerable amount of time, something in the neighborhood of close to 2 weeks. He interviewed dozens of people. He came back and reported to the Central Intelligence Agency that he found no reason to believe whatsoever that any processed uranium has been exported from Niger. Why? Because the uranium companies there are owned by essentially European countries and the controls are very, very strict and rigid. He examined a number of people who were involved in the companies and their controls, as well as people in the Niger Government. He came away believing there was no way that processed uranium could be exported from Niger to Iraq.

He reported to the Central Intelligence Agency. The Central Intelligence Agency obviously then reported to the Vice President of the United States, who we can only imagine and expect reported to the President of the United States.

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Nevertheless, the President then came here before the House and said that Niger was exporting processed uranium to Iraq when the government, our government, the administration knew, based upon firsthand information as a result of a CIA-sponsored investigation, that that was not the case. In addition, though, now we know that is not the case because we have the report of Mr. Wilson and we have other information that can only compel us to conclude that the President was wrong in his statement; and, in fact, he has admitted he was wrong in that statement, blaming Mr. Tenet.

Also in that address before a joint session of the Congress, the President mentioned the presence of vast quantities of chemical and biological weapons that were also in Iraq, according to his statement to that joint session. He also said that there were delivery mechanisms that were in Iraq and that those delivery mechanisms could be armed very, very quickly with those biological and chemical weapons and they could be used to bring those weapons into conflict against countries in the surrounding region, including Israel, against others, and that this constituted a direct threat to the United States and to our allies.

It has been now nearly 3 months that we have been searching for chemical and biological weapons as well as the means to deliver them in Iraq, and we have found absolutely nothing.

Based upon these two sets of facts, one has to question, what else did the President say that was false and why did we go to war in Iraq? This Congress needs to initiate a full and complete

congressional investigation as to the causes surrounding our entry into that war and the prosecution of that war, and it must do so forthwith.

NEW LAWS FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk tonight a little bit about the importance of a college education and some of the laws that this Congress has passed to encourage better savings for education.

Some of the concerns that we need to consider is the fact that individual students and their parents in the future probably are going to be have to be more responsible for coming up with a larger share of the funds for their kids' college education.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." As we move to a high-tech economy, that is certainly truer than ever. High school dropouts earn an average of \$360 a week, while high school graduates earn \$506. Two-year college graduates earn \$598 a week, and 4-year college graduates earn on an average \$796. Over a life of work, a college graduate can expect to earn \$620,000 more than a community college graduate, \$810,000 more than a high school graduate and a whopping \$1,115,000 more than a high school dropout.

In addition to dollars, education gives a person more options to do what they want to do in life. This is one of the reasons I tell young people who visit me to study hard. It is also why I started the LeGrand Smith Scholarship Fund for high school seniors from the 7th Congressional District of Michigan. Finally, it is why I have pushed for tax savings for parents and grandparents to save for their children's and grandchildren's education. Simply put, there is nothing that can brighten a young person's future more than education.

The cost of education, while still worthwhile given the earnings difference, it is very expensive. Under present trends, a child born today can expect to pay about \$125,000 for 4 years at a State university, about twice that much for a private university. There is a lot of Federal and State government scholarships, tax benefits, work study programs, subsidized loans and financial aid for people in college.

Congress has also created two tax-favored savings programs in recent years that help families save for education, and these two I think are important.

The Coverdell Education Savings Account allows eligible taxpayers to contribute up to \$2,000 a year. These contributions are taxable, but the accrued earnings when a person takes them out are not taxable. The accounts are flexible and can be used to pay for educational expenses in grade school, high school or college. They can be even